

**DETAILED ACTION**

*Response to Appeal Brief*

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 5-26 of the Appeal Brief, filed on March 24, 2008, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-13 and 17-44 in the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2007 have been fully considered and are persuasive, therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) final rejections of claims 1-13 and 17-44 have been withdrawn.
2. Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 1-44, of which 1-13 and 17-44 were considered unpatentable for the reasons indicated in the previous Office Action mailed on October 17, 2007.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 1-44 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, does not teach the construction of an apparatus for providing electrical signals to bicycle components as described on and including all the disclosed limitations of:

independent claim 1, comprising:

a housing adapted to be mounted to the bicycle;

a regulator supported by the housing to receive signals from a power supply; and

an output disposed on the housing to supply regulated signals provided by the regulator to a plurality of electrical bicycle components external to the housing;

independent claim 14, wherein:

the first and second external terminals comprise respective first and second contact terminals;

the first contact terminal is provided in close proximity to the first mounting member and is structured to contact a first complementary contact terminal on of the first electrical bicycle component when the first electrical bicycle component is mounted to the first mounting member; and

the second contact terminal is provided in close proximity to the second mounting member and is structured to contact a second complementary contact terminal on the second electrical bicycle component when the second electrical bicycle component is mounted to the second mounting member;

independent claim 15, wherein:

the first and second external terminals comprise respective first and second connector terminals;

the first connector terminal is provided in close proximity to the first mounting member and is structured to engage a first complementary connector

terminal on the first electrical bicycle component when the first bicycle component is mounted to the first mounting member; and  
the second connector terminal is provided in close proximity to the second mounting member and is structured to engage a second complementary connector terminal on the second electrical bicycle component when the second electrical bicycle component is mounted to the second mounting member;

independent claim 26, comprising:

a housing adapted to be mounted to the bicycle;  
a voltage regulator supported by the housing to receive power from a power supply and to provide first and second different non-ground voltages, each of which is adapted to power respective first and second electrical bicycle components; and

first and second external output terminals disposed on the housing to supply the respective first and second different non-ground voltages from the regulator to the respective first and second electrical bicycle components external to the housing;

independent claim 27, comprising:

a housing adapted to be mounted to the bicycle;  
a regulator supported by the housing to receive signals from a signal source; and

an external output terminal disposed on the housing in close proximity to each mounting member to supply regulated non-ground signals provided by the regulator to corresponding ones of the plurality of electrical bicycle components mounted to the plurality of mounting members; and

independent claim 28, comprising:

a housing adapted to be mounted to the bicycle;  
a regulator supported by the housing to receive signals from a signal source; and  
an external output terminal disposed on the housing to supply regulated non-ground signals provided by the regulator to each of the plurality of electrical bicycle components when individually mounted to the mounting member.

Dependent claims 2-13, 16-25 and 29-44 are considered allowable by their respective dependence on allowed independent claims 1 and 15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PEDRO J. CUEVAS whose telephone number is (571)272-2021. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren E. Schuberg can be reached on (571) 272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Pedro J. Cuevas/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2834  
June 13, 2008

/Darren Schuberg/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2834